

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 98-13

to the U.S. Department of Energy

Recommendation on the Endstate Reuse of the Rocky Flats Site

Approved June 4, 1998

Background

In 1994, the Future Site Use Working Group (FSUWG) was convened to make recommendations to DOE, CDPHE, and EPA regarding the future use of the Rocky Flats site. In 1995 FSUWG recommended that the buffer zone become, and remain, open space; that the industrial area become an employment center; and that the Federal government have the long-term obligation to clean up RFETS to background levels when technology is available. The Industrial Area Transition Task Force was convened in 1997 to follow up on the recommendation by the Future Site Use Working Group that the Industrial Area (IA) become an employment center. The Task Force has developed six reuse scenarios for the industrial area and three implementation strategies, out of which a recommendation will be formed. In light of the Industrial Area Transition Task Force's upcoming reuse and implementation strategy recommendation, RFCAB offers the following recommendations concerning reuse and implementation.

Guiding Principles and Understandings

- Human health, safety, and protection of the environment should be the most important factors guiding decisions pertaining to cleanup and future site uses.
- Ultimate cleanup should be to background levels for radionuclides when technology allows for cost-effective and environmentally sensitive procedures. Near-term cleanup levels should be protective of human health, safety, and the environment.
- Due to uncertainty surrounding final site conditions, any actions taken now will affect future site use options.

Recommendations

1. RFCAB recommends that the RFETS endstate become open space. All buildings onsite should be

demolished and no new development or redevelopment take place anywhere on the Rocky Flats site, buffer zone and industrial area included. We are concerned that the additional disturbance of soils could potentially release contamination into neighboring communities. Unique ecological assets could also be further disturbed due to new construction, beyond those associated with D&D activities. The specific type of open space should be determined in the future when final site conditions are clearer.

2. RFCAB recommends that the agencies initiate comprehensive public education and involvement to determine the public's vision of the Rocky Flats site end state, before a specific type of open space is determined. Long-term stewardship, final cleanup levels, actinide migration, and the presence/absence of caps are several issues that require clarification and public participation.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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